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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DC/R

DATE: April 27, 1951

SUBJECT: Political Activities of "Third Force"

PARTICIPANTS: Dr. Kan Chieh-hou

Mr. Clubb, CA

Bureau of FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS MAY 2 - 1951 ASSISTANT SECRETARY Department of State

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In the course of a conversation this date, I asked Dr. Kan what the present status of the "third force" group in Hong Kong was. He said that everything was ready to go as regards that third force excepting for two points:

(1) They desired to have refuge somewhere else than Hong Kong, preferably in Japan but alternatively in the Philippines. He mentioned particularly that in the Philippines they would presumably meet the antipathy of Ambassador Ch'en Chih-p'ing, and moreover the position of President Quirino was not clear.

(2) This group also needed funds.

The situation on the mainland, he said, was worse, but the opportunity was better. The situation was worse because of the suppressive measures undertaken by the Communists, but opportunity was greater because of the reaction to the suppression, and because likewise of the reaction to heavy losses in Korea. To exploit the opportunity, however, it was necessary, in order to make it a beginning, that the third force elements should proceed to Japan or the Philippines, because if they took action in Hong Kong they faced either expulsion by the Hong Kong authorities or assassination, and then, he said again, they need funds.

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As regards procedure for initiating a movement vis-a-vis the mainland, Chang Fa-k'uei had contacts with Kwangtung Province. He did not have direct contacts with Communist leader Ch'en Yi, but Li Ming-yang did and could go and see Ch'en Yi at any time. In the same manner, Chang Kuo-t'ao had contacts with Shansi Communist Hsu Hsuang-ch'ien, which he could exploit likewise at any time. In the same manner, K.F. Ch'en, with whom Kan himself maintains contacts, is now in Yunnan and would be able immediately to contact Lung Yun as regards the Yunnan situation.

Dr. Kan delivered to me the attached "Outline of a Platform" which he said sets forth in rough terms their thinking respecting a political program. He emphasized that this was still in rough draft form, but he offered it as to indicate the way they were thinking about the problem in point.

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